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## Open and Transparent Environment Inspires Confidence



It's been another interesting week in the Secretary of State's office as our staff began processing referenda petitions to stop implementation of SB1431, a law passed by the legislature to expand school vouchers.

The Secretary of State's Office is the the filing office for these kinds of petitions. When they come in, it's our job to review them for completeness and eliminate signature lines for various deficiencies as required by state law. For example, the law requires us to disregard signature lines for missing names, signatures, dates or address information.

After we complete our work, Arizona's counties continue the process by verifying a random 5% sample of the signatures to ensure they came from registered voters.

To open up the process to public scrutiny, we granted unprecedented access to a process that historically was hidden from view. For the first time we invited observers and media to watch the process from beginning to end.

The observers were not allowed to speak or intervene with our workers and both sides were

limited to one observer at a bank of computers.

Of course making needed change invites criticism from the usual suspects. But the truth is allowing both sides to witness the process in an open and transparent environment inspires confidence and reduces confusion in bureaucratic procedures.

In all likelihood, the entire process will be completed by early September at which point I'm sure the lawyers from either side will file a lawsuit challenging the outcome. Ironically it could be that we introduced too transparent a process. Ahhh, don't you love politics...

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## Social Media Highlights

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## World Book Student Offers Research Skills to Middle and High School Students

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World Book Student
Home Page
Search Results
Articles Page
Biography Center
Dictionary
World Resources
Back in Time
Curriculum Comparisons
Research Guides
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**World Resources**

World Book Student's **World Resources** is a comprehensive geographical tool that collects the portals for **Interactive Maps**, **World Book Atlas**, and **Compare Places**.

**Interactive Maps** integrate World Book articles into a searchable, interactive interface. World Book articles display as pins dropped on the map at their latitude and longitude coordinates.

1. Use the zoom and pan controls in the upper left side of the map to see continent and country pins and state/province/region and city pins as well as places of interest, or toggle between satellite and map view.
2. Users can also search the map by entering keywords into the Interactive Maps search box. World Book articles geocoded to latitude and longitude coordinates will appear in search results.

To view the hundreds of maps on *World Book Student*, users can choose **World Book Atlas**. From this feature, there are a couple ways to find information:

3. When users enter the Atlas, they will see a map of the world. They can either choose any of the labels on the image of the world to view a map that is specific to that place or select a place from the menu on the left. For example, they could either click or tap on the "North America" label on the map to retrieve a map of that continent, or select "North America" from the menu.
4. Users can click or tap the Home Article link to view that particular map's home article.

**Compare Places** is a tool that allows users to compare locations around the world, including continents, countries, states, provinces, and dependencies and view quick facts, images, maps, flags, seals, and videos.

5. Users can click or tap the arrows to the right and left of the place tiles to browse, and choose a place by selecting the place's picture. They can use the filter drop-down menu to filter places by category.
6. Clicking or tapping on the "Explore" link will navigate to the place's exhibit for quick facts, images, videos, and web links about that place. Using the arrow allows users to scroll up and down and view the entire list.
7. Users can click "View Article" to view the encyclopedia article for each place.
8. Selecting the "Compare Places" button allows users to choose a second place. Clicking or tapping "Compare Now!" will display the comparison. Quantitative data is displayed in bar and written format at the top of the comparison.

It's back to school for students and research papers are as expected as bad cafeteria food. When those research papers inevitably get assigned, the State Library has the resources to help, starting with World Book's Research Skills for Students.

[Learn More →](#)

## Arizona Memory Project Expands with Northern Arizona Digital Collections



The Arizona Memory Project provides access to the wealth of primary sources in Arizona archives, museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions. Secretary of State Michele Reagan was pleased to announce the addition of three new collections of digital documents to the Arizona Memory Project.

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